

Curb, Dustin (DES)

From: Ed Schweitzer <Ed_Schweitzer@selinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 8:10 PM
To: Schoesler, Mark; Jana Schultheis; DES SBCC
Cc: Schmick, Joe; Dye, Mary; Emma Schultheis (eschultheis3@gmail.com); Rep Cathy McMorris Rodgers; Bryan Ricker
Subject: RE: Please engage and stop Washington State's ban on natural gas

External Email

It's about our freedom to choose.
It's not about prohibitions, mandates, and subsidies.
When We the People are left to decide most things, under the framework of our Constitution, we'll be fine.

These days, when many in government want to regulate, prescribe, proscribe, mandate, and direct, they're taking away our economic and political freedom...the very Spirit of Free Enterprise that has made America.

Turning to more government and away from freedom moves us towards the ways of China and others.
As President Clinton said, the era of Big Government is over.
We should listen to that.

And, Reagan before that...more government isn't the answer, it's the problem.

Take it from a D and an R...our state is headed in the wrong direction, and away from what makes us a nation that folks around the world want to be a part of.

Whether it's natural gas, gas-powered cars, building standards beyond basic safety... let We the People decide.
Most of the time we'll get it right, sometimes we'll get it wrong.
Letting government decide is a huge hidden tax, where more people will suffer a different kind of wrong...in aggregate bigger than the sum of the smaller mistakes of individuals.

Thank you all,
Ed

From: Schoesler, Sen. Mark <Mark.Schoesler@leg.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 7:05 PM
To: Jana Schultheis <Jana_Schultheis@selinc.com>; sbcc@des.wa.gov
Cc: Schmick, Rep. Joe <Joe.Schmick@leg.wa.gov>; Dye, Rep. Mary <Mary.Dye@leg.wa.gov>; Emma Schultheis (eschultheis3@gmail.com) <eschultheis3@gmail.com>; Rep Cathy McMorris Rodgers <repmcmorris@mail15.housecommunications.gov>; Bryan Ricker <bryan_ricker@selinc.com>; Ed Schweitzer <Ed_Schweitzer@selinc.com>
Subject: Re: Please engage and stop Washington State's ban on natural gas

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agree more. I will be submitting comments as well.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note20 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
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From: Jana Schultheis <Jana_Schultheis@selinc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 5:56:52 PM

To: sbcc@des.wa.gov <sbcc@des.wa.gov>

Cc: Schmick, Rep. Joe <Joe.Schmick@leg.wa.gov>; Schoesler, Sen. Mark <Mark.Schoesler@leg.wa.gov>; Dye, Rep. Mary <Mary.Dye@leg.wa.gov>; Emma Schultheis (eschultheis3@gmail.com) <eschultheis3@gmail.com>; Rep Cathy McMorris Rodgers <repmcmorris@mail15.housecommunications.gov>; Bryan Ricker <bryan_ricker@selinc.com>; Ed Schweitzer <Ed_Schweitzer@selinc.com>

Subject: Please engage and stop Washington State's ban on natural gas

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Dear Code Council Members and our Eastern Washington State elected representatives,

For 30 years I have worked in both the residential and commercial building industry mainly in Washington State. I have built buildings under the Uniform Building Code through today's most recent International Building Codes. My projects cover in excess of two-million square feet world-wide.

I have seen vast improvements in building safety – which is exactly the intent of the code. But, I have also seen every level of this industry become more complex, less efficient and more costly with each code revision. The appointed code committee members have the unique and weighty opportunity to reset that curve to restore logic to their recommendations to our legislators for WAC's & RCW's and the state's supplementary energy, electrical, mechanical, etc. codes.

On the agenda is the proposed change to eliminate natural gas energy and would require new homes to use electric heat pumps for both space and water heating.

This would eliminate the ability for home builders to install cost-effective and energy-efficient natural gas heat pumps in new homes, and it would make Washington the first and only state to institute a statewide requirement to this effect. Please recall, for the last 20 years the state has incentivized the use of high SEER and ASHRAE rated gas appliances. They were the industry darlings and did, in fact, save on electricity, cost and were highly reliable.

I live in rural Eastern Washington. We have excellent electrical co-op that provides power to our home. But, from time to time, in the darkest of winter, we lose electric power and must rely on other means to heat our home and cook our food.

Two years ago, at 10 P.M., I offered linemen working in zero degree weather, howling 30 mph winds and over 3 feet of snow a warm meal and shelter to warm up while they worked to restore power to my home and our region. Natural gas appliances are always on when you need them the most.

This year, the discussion of rolling black outs through California should be fresh in our minds. Forced restriction of electric power and timed grid use to plug in electric cars would leave their constituents unable to have energy on-demand.

Why would this committee choose to remove one very sound method of energy delivery that is only 12.9% of our state's power supply? Why would this committee prescribe homeowners to use a system that has a higher initial cost and will fail when the power is interrupted? Why, when the electrification of all things is in increasing grid demands would you intentionally make the grid more taxed by removing an alternate fuel source that diversifies load? Why would this committee extinguish natural gas when the advancement of Natural Gas Direct-Use technologies are emerging to also improve their GHG emissions?

This ban died in legislature in 2021 for very good reason. It does not meet the needs of it's consumers nor does it make a marked improvement on GHG emissions.

Commercial buildings are already under the new unduly restrictive Clean Buildings Act, where there is no ROI, on the new all the new systems and controls.

Building, working and living in Washington with this kind of thought leadership is becoming prohibitive for all income levels.

I ask this code committee and our elected officials to carefully consider the most effective means and methods to manage safe construction and operation of our most basic need, shelter.

Please stop the march for ideological over-regulation at this critical level.

Thank you,
Jana Schultheis

Jana Schultheis
Vice President of Property
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